CENSUS OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES New Jersey 2001

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

IN COOPERATION WITH THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Project

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FOREWORD

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) Project is a cooperative effort between the federal and state governments. Data are collected from 50 states and U.S. territories. The objective of CFOI is to collect detailed information on every occupational injury fatality. The project was initiated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and NJ data were collected beginning in the year 1991. The first national Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries was published in 1992. The impetus for the CFOI project was the lack of a true count of occupational injury fatalities. Estimates of the number of fatal injuries varied widely due to different reporting sources and definitions.

Researchers may obtain the national data file from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The BLS and the states provide matching funds to conduct the CFOI project. The states actively collect, verify, code, computerize, and transmit to BLS detailed information on work-related fatal injuries. Coding is done according to the BLS protocol. Identifying information such as workers' names, employers' names, and company names are not sent to BLS. In New Jersey, the CFOI project is conducted by the Occupational Health Service within the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

In this publication, totals of some categories may not be the same as those published by the BLS for New Jersey. Differences may be due to grouping of information.

The Internet address for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, is: www.bls.gov/oshfat1.htm.

NOTE

In 2001, 5,900 workers died due to work-related injuries in the United States. Inclusion of the 2,886 workers who died as a result of the September 11 terrorist attacks increases the number to 8,786 workers. *

^{*} U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

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- ➤ Total number of fatal injuries in New Jersey: 129
- ➤ Total number of fatal injuries in the United States: 5,900
- ➤ The rate for all industries: 3.1 fatal injuries per 100,000 workers
- > 122 were men and 7 were women
- > 29% were foreign-born
- ➤ Age at death ranged from 15 to 78; average age was 43; 58% were younger than 45 years old
- ➤ A total of 2,937 potential years of work life (the total number of years before age 65) was lost, an average of 24 years per fatality
- > 85% were employed by New Jersey businesses
- > 87% were residents of New Jersey
- ➤ 116 worked for wages or salary; 13 were self-employed
- ➤ 115 worked in the private sector; 14 were public employees
- ➤ At least one fatal injury occurred in each county. The highest numbers occurred in Essex (17), Bergen (14), and Middlesex (11) Counties
- The majority of fatal injuries occurred in the industries of construction (32), and transportation and public utilities (27)
- ➤ The percent of fatal injuries occurring by company size was: 1 10 employees, 35%, and over 100 employees, 16%. The company size was unknown for 23% of the employers
- The highest number of fatal injuries occurred in the occupations of operators, fabricators, and laborers (54), and precision production, craft, and repair (27)
- The most common fatal events included transportation incidents (43), assaults and violent acts (25), and falls (22)



DATA SPECIFICATIONS

The following individuals are included:

- ◆ Private and public sector employees
- ♦ Self-employed persons
- Certain volunteers (firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical service workers)
- Persons traveling on the job, but not commuting to or from work
- Institutionalized persons who are fatally injured while employed off the premises of their institutions

All fatal work-related injuries that occurred in New Jersey in 2001 were included in this report, including those caused by homicides, suicides, and motor vehicle incidents. Only deaths due to an injury are included; deaths due to an occupational illness are not included. A death is considered work-related if the event leading to the fatal injury occurred while the employee was working, either on or off the employer's premises. Fatal occupational injuries are classified according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' protocol. The coding systems used are listed in footnotes to the tables in this report.

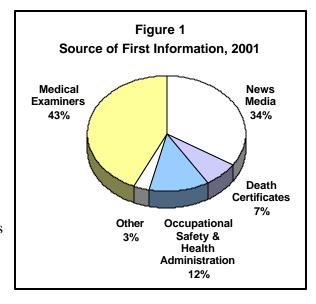
An occupational injury is defined as a wound or other condition caused by external forces, or caused by a specific event or incident or series of events within a single work day. Work-related

injuries listed as an underlying or contributory cause on the death certificate or medical examiner's report are included. An example of this is a death that was caused by pneumonia after the worker was hospitalized with injuries that occurred at work.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The work-relationship of each fatality is confirmed by at least two sources. Sources and documents used are the news media, medical examiner reports, death certificates, police reports, NJ Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) reports, and other state and federal agency reports. A follow-back questionnaire is sent to employers or other knowledgeable persons, when necessary, to gather additional information.

Figure 1 shows that county and state medical examiners were the major source of initial information about the fatal injuries, followed by information from the news media, including newspaper articles.



DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Table 1 shows the employer, employment status, gender, race, ethnicity, and age of the 129 victims of fatal work-related injuries in New Jersey in 2001. Ninety percent of the victims worked for wages and salaries. Eleven percent were government employees. Most of the victims were male (95%). The workers' ages ranged from 15 to 78, with 59% younger than 45 years of age and 21% 55 years of age or older.

TABLE 1
Fatal Work-Related Injuries by Selected Demographic Characteristics
New Jersey, 2001 (N=129)

CHARACTERISTIC	NUMBER	PERCENT
TOTAL	129	100
Employer		
Private	115	89
Government	14	11
Employment Status		
Wage and Salary Workers	116	90
Self-employed*	13	10
Gender		
Men	122	95
Women	7	5
Race		
White, non-Hispanic	82	64
Black, non-Hispanic	17	13
Asian	3	2
Other or Unknown	2	2
Hispanic or Latino	25	19
Age		
15 to 24 years	11	9
25 to 34 years	23	18
35 to 44 years	41	32
45 to 54 years	28	22
55 to 64 years	20	16
65 years and older	6	5

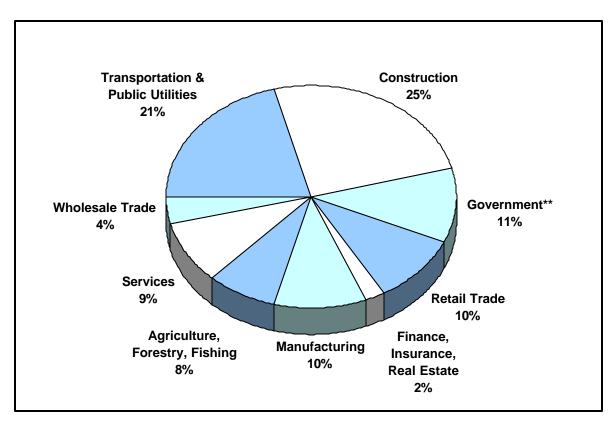
^{*} Includes paid and unpaid family workers, and may include owners of incorporated businesses, or members of partnerships.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

INDUSTRY

The majority of fatal injuries occurred in the industries of Construction (32, 25%), and Transportation and Public Utilities (27, 21%). The percentage of fatally injured workers employed in the Construction industry increased from 22% (25) in 2000 to 25% (32) in 2001. The percentage employed in the Services industry decreased from 13% (15) in 2000 to 9% (12) in 2001. Those employed in Government decreased from 14% (16) in 2000 to 11% (14) in 2001. (See page 7 for numbers of injuries in each industrial category.)

FIGURE 2
Fatal Work-Related Injuries by Industry*
New Jersey, 2001 (N=129)



^{*} Based on the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Manual, 1987.

^{**}Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations, regardless of SIC. In prior years, government workers were included in their respective SIC.

OCCUPATION

The percentage of victims employed as Operators, Fabricators, and Laborers decreased from 47% (54) in 2000 to 42% (54) in 2001. The percentage of victims employed in Precision Production, Craft, and Repair occupations increased from 16% (18) in 2000 to 21% (27) in 2001.

TABLE 2 Fatal Work-Related Injuries by Occupation New Jersey, 2001 (N=129)

OCCUPATION*	NUMBER**	PERCENT
Operators, Fabricators, and Laborers	54	42
Transportation and material moving occupations	23	
Motor vehicle operators	20	
Truck drivers	16	
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, & laborers	27	
Construction laborers	12	
Laborers, except construction	10	
Precision Production, Craft, and Repair	27	21
Construction trades	22	
Construction trades, except supervisors	15	
Service Occupations	14	11
Protective service	9	
Fire fighting and fire prevention, including supervisors	3	
Police and detectives, including supervisors	3	
Guards, including supervisors	3	
Farming, Forestry, and Fishing	13	10
Fishers	3	
Managerial and Professional Specialty	12	9
Executive, administrative, and managerial	9	
Managers, food serving, and lodging establishments	3	
Technical, Sales, and Administrative Support	7	5
Sales occupations	6	
Supervisors and Proprietors, Sales	4	
Other Occupations	2	2

^{*} Based on the 1990 Occupational Classification System developed by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

^{**} Subcategories may not total major categories. Not all subcategories are shown. Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

EVENT OR EXPOSURE

The event describes the manner in which the injury was produced or inflicted by the source of the injury. Transportation incidents decreased from 49 (43% of the total fatalities) in 2000 to 43 (33%) in 2001. Homicides increased from 10 (9% of the total fatalities) in 2000 to 17 (13%) in 2001. Deaths due to exposures to harmful substances and environments increased from 6 (5%) in 2000 to 12 (9%) in 2001.

TABLE 3
Fatal Work-Related Injuries by Event or Exposure
New Jersey, 2001 (N=129)

EVENT OR EXPOSURE*	NUMBER**	PERCENT
Transportation Incidents	43	33
Highway	22	
Collision between vehicles	12	
Moving in intersection	5	
Moving in opposite direction, on-coming	3	
Vehicle struck object, equipment in road or side of road	6	
Non-highway	4	
Pedestrian, non-passenger, struck by vehicle	14	
In parking lot or non-road area	7	
In roadway or side of the road	7	
Water vehicle	3	
Assaults and Violent Acts	25	19
Homicide	17	
Shooting	9	
Stabbing	6	
Suicide	7	
Falls	22	17
Fall to lower level	22	
From a roof	7	
From a ladder	4	
From a floor, dock, or ground level	4	
Contact with Objects and Equipment	18	14
Struck by object	8	
Struck by falling object	7	
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	9	
Caught in running equipment or machinery	5	
Exposure to Harmful Substances or Environments	12	9
Contact with electric current	5	
Fires and Explosions	9	7
Fire, unintended or uncontrolled	5	

^{*} Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.

^{**} Subcategories may not total major categories. Not all subcategories are shown. Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

INDUSTRY AND EVENT OR EXPOSURE - BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

			Event or exposure ² (percent)					
$\mathbf{Industry}^1$	SIC code ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Transpor- tation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environ- ments	Fires and explosions
Total		129	33.3	19.4	14.0	17.1	9.3	7.0
Private Industry	Ì	115	33.0	17.4	15.7	19.1	8.7	6.1
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing		10	40.0	-	30.0	_	-	-
Agricultural services	07	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Landscape and horticultural services	078	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ornamental shrub and tree services	0783	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fishing, hunting, and trapping	09	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commercial fishing	091	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Construction	ĺ	32	12.5	-	15.6	53.1	12.5	-
General building contractors	15	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heavy construction, except building	16	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Highway and street construction	161	3	-	-	-	_	-	-
Heavy construction, except highway	162	3	j -	-	-	-	-	-
Special trade contractors	17	22	_	-	13.6	63.6	13.6	-
Electrical work	173	3	j -	-	-	-	-	-
Masonry, stonework, and plastering	174	3	_	-	-	_	-	-
Masonry, stone setting, and other stone work	1741	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Roofing, siding, and sheet metal work	176	7	-	-	-	71.4	-	-
Miscellaneous special trade contractors	179	5	_	-	-	60.0	-	-
Structural steel erection	1791	3	j -	-	-	100.0	-	-
Manufacturing		13	38.5	-	30.8	_	-	_
Stone, clay, and glass products	32	3	j -	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation and public utilities		27	66.7	14.8	-	_	-	-
Local and interurban passenger transit	41	5	80.0	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking and warehousing	42	14	71.4	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking and courier services, except	İ		j					
air	421	13	69.2	-	-	_	-	_
Local trucking without storage	4212	6	100.0	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking, except local	4213	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation by air	45	3	-	-	-	_	-	-
Wholesale trade	Ì	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wholesale trade-nondurable goods	51	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retail trade	Ì	13	-	61.5	-	-	-	-
Eating and drinking places	58	6	-	66.7	-	_	-	-
Eating places	5812	5	-	60.0	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous retail	59	4	_	-	-	_	-	-
Miscellaneous shopping goods stores	594	3	-	-	-	_	-	-
Finance, insurance, and real estate		3	_	-	-	_	-	-
Real estate	65	3	j -	-	-	_	-	_
Real estate operators and lessors	651	3	_	_	-	_	-	-
Operators of apartment buildings	6513	3	j -	-	-	-	-	-
Services		12	25.0	33.3	_	_	25.0	-
Business services	73	4	j -	-	-	_	-	-

			Event or exposure ² (percent)						
Industry ¹	SIC Code ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Transpor- tation incidents ³	Assaults and Violent Acts ⁴	Contact with Objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environ- ments	Fires and explosions	
Government ⁵		14	35.7	35.7	-	-	-	-	
Federal Government (including resident armed forces)		3	-	-	-	-	-	-	
State Government		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Local Government		9	33.3	33.3	-	-	-	-	
Public Administration		8	37.5	-	-	-	-	-	
Justice, public order, and safety	92	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Public order and safety	922	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Police protection	9221	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Fire protection	9224	3	-	-		-			

¹Classified according to the Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

There were less than 5 fatalities for which there was insufficient information to determine a specific industry classification, though a distinction between private and government was made for each.

Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

Data for 2001 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau or Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. Table A1 from CFOI profile system.

²Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual

³Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, and rail fatalities.

⁴Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and assaults by animals.

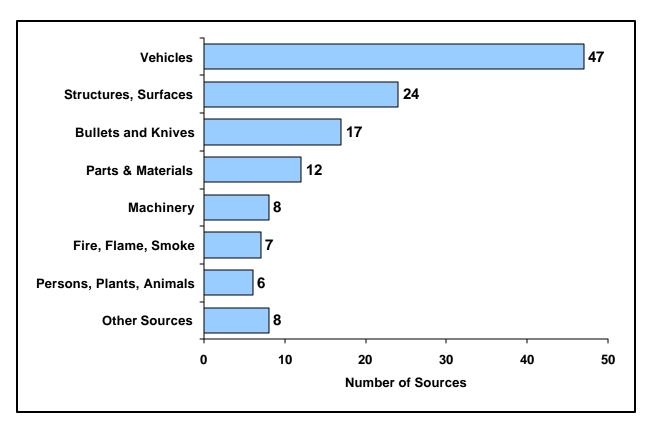
⁵Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

SOURCE OF INJURY

The sources (the objects, substances, exposures, or bodily motions that directly produced the injury) of the 129 fatal injuries are shown in **Figure 3**. A vehicle remains the most common source of fatal injuries. If a vehicle was the source, the decedent was an occupant of the vehicle or, if a pedestrian, was struck by the vehicle. In a fall, the source was the surface or object to which the decedent fell.

Forty-seven (36%) of the work-related fatal injuries involved vehicles, including 37 highway vehicles (25 trucks, 8 autos, and 4 vans), 4 plant and industrial vehicles, 3 trains, and 3 water vehicles. Structures and surfaces, almost exclusively floors, walkways, and ground surfaces, were the source of the fatal injury in 24 (19%) of the incidents.

Figure 3
Fatal Work-Related Injuries by Source of Injury*
New Jersey, 2001 (N=129)



^{*} Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.

WORKER ACTIVITY

Table 4 indicates the activity of the worker at the time of occurrence of the 129 fatal injuries. The most common activities were vehicular and transportation operations, including driving or operating a vehicle (38, 30%), and constructing, repairing, and cleaning (32, 25%). Seven workers (5%) were killed while performing protective service activities.

TABLE 4
Fatal Work-Related Injuries by Worker Activity
New Jersey, 2001 (N=129)

WORKER ACTIVITY*	NUMBER**	PERCENT
Vehicular and Transportation Operations	38	29
Driving or operating	24	
Truck	14	
Automobile	5	
Riding in a vehicle	5	
Walking in or near a roadway	4	
Constructing, Repairing, Cleaning	32	25
Construction, assembling, dismantling	12	
Repair, maintenance	8	
Inspecting, checking	5	
Using, Operating Tools and Machinery	17	13
Logging, trimming, pruning	5	
Operating, reading gauges, switches	5	
Material Handling Operations	10	8
Loading, unloading, packing, unpacking	4	
Protective Service Activities	7	5
Fighting a fire	3	
Physical Activities	7	5
Other Activities	12	9
Tending a retail establishment	6	
Activity Unspecified or Unknown	6	5

^{*} Based on activity codes developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

^{**} Subcategories may not total major categories. Not all subcategories are shown.

WORKER LOCATION

Table 5 shows the location of the 129 workers at the time of their injury. Most of the decedents were fatally injured on streets or highways (29, 22%), especially local roads and streets. Twenty-eight workers (22%) died due to injuries that occurred at construction sites, including general construction, residential construction, and road construction sites.

TABLE 5
Fatal Work-Related Injuries by Location of the Worker
New Jersey, 2001 (N=129)

WORKER'S LOCATION*	NUMBER**	PERCENT
Street or Highway	29	22
Local road or street	16	
Interstate, freeway, expressway	9	
Multiple access roads	4	
Construction Sites***	28	22
General construction	20	
Residential construction	5	
Road construction	3	
Industrial Places and Premises	21	16
Factory, plant	7	
Industrial yard	4	
Railroad	3	
Public Building	15	12
Convenience store or other store	6	
Restaurant	5	
Home	15	12
Other Places	18	14
Parking lots	6	
River, sea	5	
Farm	3	2

^{*} Based on location codes developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

^{**} Subcategories may not total major categories. Not all subcategories are shown.

^{***} Construction sites include residential, road, and general construction sites.

TABLE 6
Fatal Occupational Injuries by Event or Exposure*
New Jersey, 1994 – 2001 (N=884)

Event or Exposure	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Total	114	118	100 ¹	101	103	104 ²	115	129
Transportation Incidents	36	41	40	31	44	36	49	43
Highway	15	24	18	9	21	16	17	22
Collision between vehicles	11	14	9	2	12	8	11	12
Collision with stationary object	*	9	7	5	7	4	3	*
Non-highway	4	3	*	5	9	*	6	4
Pedestrian struck by vehicle	12	10	14	11	12	8	14	14
In road or side of road	8	7	8	7	6	5	7	5
In non-roadway area	4	3	6	4	6	3	7	7
Water vehicle	*	*	3	*	*	9	*	3
Aircraft	4	*	*	*	*	*	11	*
Assaults and Violent Acts	27	28	21	18	14	17	15	25
Homicides	22	24	14 ⁵	15	13	15	10	17
Fall to Lower Level	13	13	7	16	14	21	22	22
From ladder	*	5	*	6	4	5	6	4
From roof	*	4	*	6	4	7	5	7
Exp. to Harmful Sub/Environ.	16	12	10	20	8	9	6	12
Contact with electric current	8	5	6	9	8	*	3	5
Struck by Object	6	8	11	6	12	4	14	8

¹Original Census = 99; revised to 100 after one year.

²Original Census = 103; revised to 104 after one year.

^{*}Note: Only major categories are shown. Only categories with three or more incidents are shown.